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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

Subj: AMPLIFICATION FOR DON IMPLEMENTATION MEMO 95-8,
CRITERIA FOR DEPARTMENT-WIDE WAIVER APPROVAL

Ref: (a) DON Implementation Memo 95-8, Criteria For
Department-Wide Waiver Approval, dated 28 Aug 95

Reference (a) provided the approval criteria that will be used by the DoN Standards Improvement Executive for Department-wide waiver requests for the use of military specifications and standards. This criteria was developed by the Command Standards Improvement Executives and this office to provide a basis for preparing the justification for and the subsequent review and approval of Department-wide waiver requests for the use of military specifications and standards on all solicitations.

The reference (a) criteria can also be applied to the approval of program-unique waivers for the use of military specifications and standards on individual solicitations. This criteria can be used by Program Offices and Buying Commands for preparing the justification for, and by the Milestone Decision Authority (MDA) in the subsequent review and approval of, program-unique waiver requests. However, use of this criteria by a Program Office or Buying Command to justify a program-unique waiver request does not necessarily imply that a waiver approval will be granted by the MDA. Additionally, having an approved Department-wide waiver for a military specification or standard does not necessarily guarantee that its use will be authorized by the MDA as a program-unique waiver. The final authority for approving the use of any military specification or standard remains with the associated program MDA.

Promulgation of the reference (a) criteria should not be construed that the use of military specifications and standards is being encouraged, but rather that the use of military specifications or standards shall be justified by a limited, selected number of legitimate needs. Waivers shall only be approved in cases where arguments are clear and

compelling in the areas of cost, risk, or the non-availability of non-government standards. DoN policy remains that the use of military specifications and standards is authorized as a last resort with an appropriate waiver. Tailoring of the requirements contained in the waived military specification or standard shall still be accomplished.

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